LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS:
PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIRECTOR, TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY
CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
CITY OF TAMPA

LOCAL PROPERTY OWNERS: HARBOR ISLES HOME OWNERS

#### MEDIA:

TAMPA TRIBUNE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

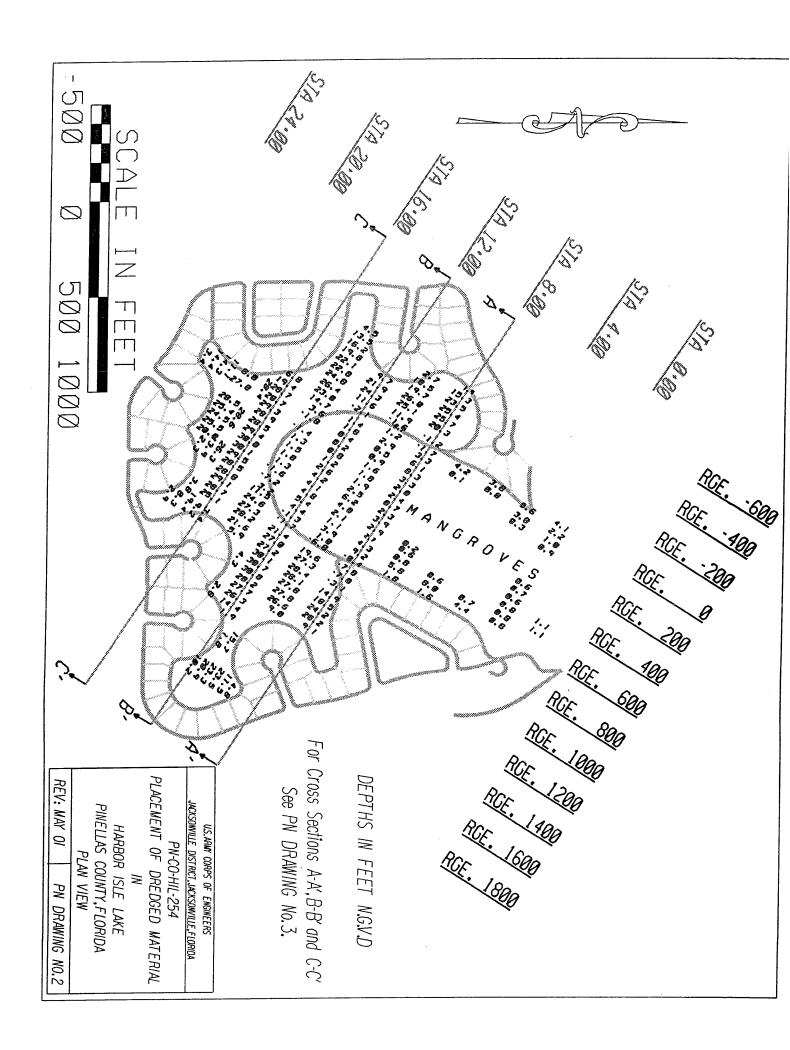
FOR THE COMMANDER:

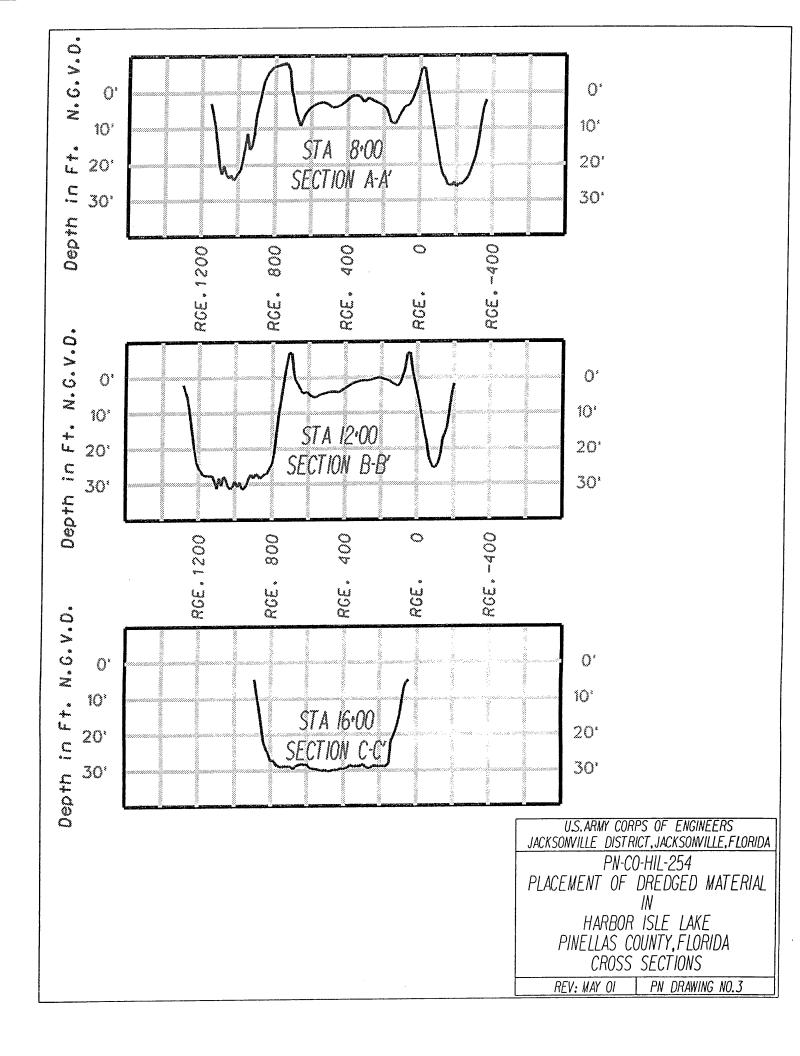
Gordon M. Butler, Jr.

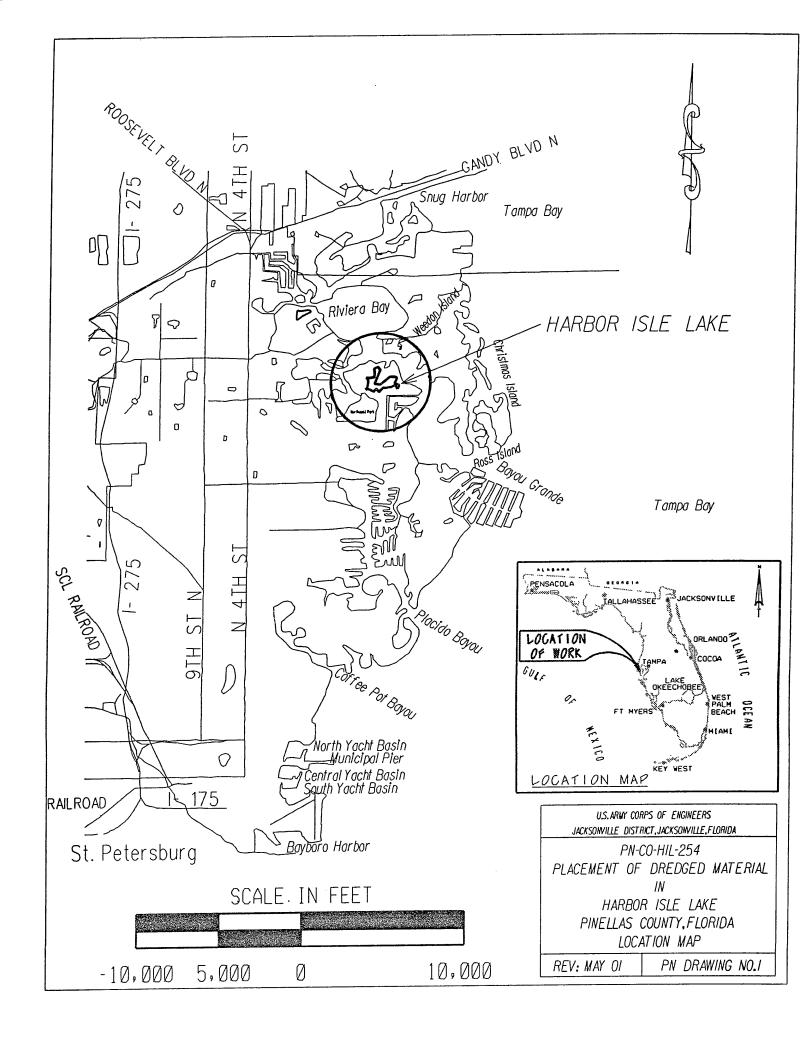
Chief, Construction-Operations

Division

Enclosure









CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

POST OFFICE BOX 2842, St. Petersburg, Florida 33731-2842

WEB SITE: www.stpete.org Channel 35 WSPF ·TV

TELEPHONE: 727 893-7171

June 27, 2001

Mr. Gordon M. Butler, Jr. Chief, Construction Operations Division U.S. Army Corps of Engineers P. O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Butler:

Re:

Public Notice: Dredged Material Placement - Harbor Isle Lake

Public Notice No. PN-CO-HIL-254

In reference to the above public notice, please be advised that the City of St. Petersburg maintains an interest in the proposed dredged material placement, as the owner of the lake bottom lands, and in its representation of the surrounding property owners.

Pursuant to the above, a meeting was held with the Harbor Isle Homeowners Association on June 21, 2001, wherein the Association voted to allow filling of the lake to a depth of 11 - 12 feet, as measured by from the surface water elevation of 98.1 (St. Pete Datum, MSL = 97.00). Furthermore, the Association voted that the sediment shall be clean and consist of approximately two-thirds bay bottom sands, with no more than one-third of silty sands.

The City of St. Petersburg endorses and accepts the Homeowners Association's position in this matter, and respectfully requests your adherence to the same, in the proposal to fill the lake with dredged materials.

Attached please find a letter from the homeowners association regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Connors, P.E.

Engineering, Stormwater & Transportation Director

MJC:dls

Enclosure

cc: Gary Marston, Harbor Isle Homeowners Association

## **Harbor Isle Homeowners Association**

June 24, 2001

City of St Petersburg Engineering, Stormwater & Transportation Dept Director Michael J. Connors PO Box 2842 St Petersburg, FL 33731 PO Box 21544
St Petersburg, FL 33742 GINEERING DEPT.

ST JUN 26 AM 8: 57
GINEERING DEPT.

Dear Mike:

First, I want to thank you for your willingness to spend your personal time to explain the Harbor Isle Lake problem with the Board of Directors and our neighborhood residents at our June 2001 General Membership meeting. I fully believe your understanding of our problem and experience in dealing with these types of matters citywide truly helped our residents learn how to best deal with our lake's poor water quality issues. Your patience and breadth of knowledge of the issue helped our interested neighbors understand the importance of taking corrective action now, even though many probably arrived at the meeting with the intent to vote against our proposed lake-saving initiatives.

For the record, let me recapitulate what transpired on the evening of Thursday, June 21, 2001:

The Harbor Isle Homeowners Association held its semi-annual General Membership meeting at 7:00pm at Faith Covenant Church in Northeast St Petersburg. The sole topic of discussion was the poor water quality of the unnamed body of water otherwise known as Harbor Isle Lake. A quorum, 36 Harbor Isle homeowners, attended, an estimated 28 of whom own property adjoining the subject lake.

The discussion focused around the present (poor) condition of the lake, the causes for that condition, and a two-part proposal to remedy the situation. In an effort to improve the water quality, we discussed our present request to the Army Corps of Engineers for dredge material placement in Harbor Isle Lake. We discussed our hopes that this initial project would help prevent future fish-kills, as the one experienced in that lake in November 2000. Although we also discussed a follow-up project to allow tidal flushing of a cleaner, shallower Harbor Isle Lake, we only **voted** upon the following at this meeting:

"Request that the Army Corps of Engineers fill the lake to a depth of 11-12 feet (as measured from the surface elevation of 98.1 feet). Also, request that the fill material used be clean and consist of no lesser quality than two-thirds (bay-bottom) sands, and no more than a third silty sands."

Number IN FAVOR: 30

Number AGAINST: 2

Abstained: 4

In addition, 17 homeowners, who could not be present for the meeting, signed a proxy vote. All 17 voted **in favor of** Harbor Isle Homeowners Association's handling of the lake matters.

So, on behalf of the Harbor Isle Homeowners Association and concerned residents, please proceed with a formal request to the Army Corps of Engineers to fill our lake in accordance with the specifications agreed upon, above, by our membership.

Thank you again for you high level of concern and unwavering commitment to improve the health of our lake.

Sincerely,

Garý P. Marston

President, Harbor Isle Homeowners Association

Janson 2 July 2001

Gordon M. Butler Jr. Chief, Construction-Operations Division Jacksonville District Corps. of Engineers P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

cc: Rick Baker - Mayor of St. Petersburg, FL

M. J. Connors - Director Engineering & Stormwater, City of St. Petersburg, FL

#### Dear Mr. Butler:

This letter is in response to your letter, Public Notice No. PN-CO-HIL-254 dated on 8 June 2001 regarding the proposed fill of Harbor Isle Lake in St. Petersburg, FL. We are requesting a public hearing on this matter in order to address our major concerns with this proposed project. We are property owners located on Harbor Isle lake. We have a concerted interest in the aesthetic looks of this lake as well as the health and quality of the water in it. We have lived on this lakefront property for almost 14 years. We have never experienced the "major fish kills" you stated in your letter due to a lack of oxygen in the water of this lake. Last November we experienced our first significant fish kill in Harbor Isle lake. The City of St. Petersburg stated in a report that this fish kill was due to a naturally caused thermal inversion of the lake. This thermal inversion was due to a rare and unique occurrence of cooler than normal temperatures, a sudden heavy rain fall and a number of other complex factors occurring simultaneously. It was publicly discussed that this was the only time a significant thermal inversion resulted in a major fish kill over the 24 year history of the lake.

In the public notice letter, the Army Corp of Engineers proposes to fill the lake with an unspecified soil sediment to a 6 foot depth from various unspecified channels throughout Tampa Bay. We as lakefront property homeowners are opposed to this ill defined project. We have not seen any prior success/failure rate project data, feasibility or developmental studies conducted, nor any environmental data from your agency nor anyone else on how this project's environmental goals are to be accomplished. There have been no similar projects attempted nor referenced in which a brackish lake was filled with sludge, sand and silt as you propose. There are a number of issues raised by filling this lake. First is the risk of increase growth of unwanted vegetation such as cattails and algae blooms with shallower water depths and warmer average water temperatures. A second liability will be an increased concentration of pollutants from stormwater, pesticide and fertilizer runoff into the lake due to its reduced water volume. A third exposure is the visual look of the lake that may change especially with the proposed future lowering of the lake elevation. The lake shoreline will be altered as well as the surface area size reduced. There has been no studies, analysis or plans presented addressing any of these issues. No comparable projects were presented that could be used as a guide to evaluate this project.

The local paper reports how Florida lakes now have a large amount of sludge and sediment on their bottoms due to their shallow nature, excessive vegetation and years of pollution. There are many projects desiring funding to dredge these lake bottoms and deepen them. Yet you are proposing filling our lake with sludge to improve water quality. This is contradictory to what others are attempting and have been doing to clean up their lakes over the last few years.

- Explain your statement on the "major fish kills" and data regarding the degrading water quality of Harbor Isle lake.
- Has there been any environmental or wild life studies or water quality data taken over the years on Harbor Isle lake that indicate a significant degradation?
- What mechanisms are increasing the pollution levels in the lake and how does reducing the water volume decrease these concentrations?
- How will filling this lake with sediment (*sludge*, *silt*, *and sand*) from some of the most polluted Tampa Bay harbor waters improve our lake water quality?
- What studies, analysis or water quality data justify this lake filling action?
- What will happen to existing fish and wildlife during the lake filling?
- How will the improved water quality be verified after the proposed filling?
- Who will provide the resources and funds necessary to correct matters if unknown undesired outcomes become reality?
- Will the City of St. Petersburg be accountable and assume project responsibility?

We are opposed to filling this lake to any proposed depth without the proper analysis and studies done beforehand. There has been no studies conducted or any analysis stating that filling our lake to 12 feet will improve an unknown water quality. Many assumptions are being made to probable outcomes and there is a strong possibility that other factors have not been taken into account. The lack of understanding of what actually is happening in this body of water concerns us.

We do not believe the rationalization for this project is justified at this time. There is only a limited or non-existent understanding of the natural conditions within and around the lake as it exists. Also the known and unknown risks outweigh the nebulous benefits.

If the only desire is to increase oxygen concentration in Harbor Isle lake to improve water quality, there are alternate methods that have not been investigated nor evaluated. For instance, a continuous laminar flow inversion system is used in man-made and natural lakes may be feasible to increase oxygen levels and improve water quality with limited risk and it is reversible.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters. We are looking forward to your written response to these issues.

Sincerely,

Karen G. Pastula

1769 72 Avenue NE St. Petersburg FL 33702 Charles J. Dubauskas



### DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home"

JEB BUSH Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT Secretary

June 4, 2001

Ms. Patricia Hanson Department of the Army Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers Post Office Box 4970 Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE:

Department of the Army - Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers - Maintenance Dredging of the St. Petersburg Harbor Navigation Project for Placement of Dredged Material on Egmont Key - Public Notice Number: PN-SP-227 - Pinellas County, Florida

SAI: FL200012200789C

Dear Ms. Hanson:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

Based on the information contained in the above-referenced notice and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that the abovereferenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Jasmin Raffington at (850) 922-5438.

Respectfully,

W. Craig Fugate, Interim Director

Division of Emergency Management and Acting Executive

Director, Florida Coastal Management Program

WCF/cc **Enclosures** 

COUNTY: Pinellas  Message:	,	DATE: 12/20/2000  COMMENTS DUE DATE: 01/19/2001  CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 02/02/2001
		SAI#: FL2000122007890
Community Affairs  X Environmental Protection Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm State Transportation	Southwest Florida WMD	S OPB POLICY UNITS
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	), Subpart C). Federal Agencies are	Corps of Engineers - Maintenance Dredging of the St. Petersburg Harbor Navigation Project for Placement of Dredged Material on Egmont Key - Public Notice Number - PN-SP-227 - Pinellas County, Florida
concurrence or objection.  Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production  Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.  Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such		DECEIVE DI
projects will only be evaluated for analogous state license or permit.		State of Florida Clearinghouse
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Reviewer:	P Milliagn	
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An Equal Opportunity Employer

# Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office 7601 Highway 301 North Tampa, Florida 33637-6759 (813) 985-7481 or 1-800-836-0797 (FL only) SUNCOM 578-2070 Bartow Service Office 170 Century Boulevard Bartow, Florida 33830-7700 (863) 534-1448 or 1-800-492-7862 (FL only) SUNCOM 572-6200 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899 (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) SUNCOM 628-4150 TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)

World Wide Web: http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us

Venice Service Office 115 Corporation Way Venice, Florida 34292-3524 (941) 486-1212 or 1-800-320-3503 (FL only) SUNCOM 526-6900 Lecanto Service Office 3600 West Sovereign Path Suite 226 Lecanto, Florida 34461-8070 (352) 527-8131 SUNCOM 667-3271

Ronald C. Johnson Chair, Polk

Monroe "Ai" Coogler Vice Chair, Citrus

Saily Thompson Secretary, Hillsborough

> Ronnie E. Duncan Treasurer, Pinellas

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Hillsborough
John K. Renke, III

Pasco

E. D. "Sonny" Vergara
Executive Director
Gene A. Heath

Assistant Executive Director
William S. Bilenky
General Counsel

January 17, 2001 Ms. Cherie Trainor Florida State Clearinghouse Department Community Affairs 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Subject: Department of the Army - Jacksonville District Corps of Engineering - Maintenance

Dredging of the St. Petersburg Harbor Navigation Project for Placement of Dredged Materials on Egmont Key - Public Notice Number - PN-SP-227- Pinellas County,

Florida

SAI#:

FL 200012200789C

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The staff of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) has conducted a consistency evaluation for the project referenced above. Consistency findings are divided into four categories and are based solely on the information provided in the subject application.

FINDING	CATEGORY
X	Consistent/No Comment
	Consistent/Comments Attached
	Inconsistent/Comments Attached
	Consistency Cannot be Determined Without an Environmental Assessment Report/Comments Attached

This review does not constitute permit approval under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, or any rules promulgated thereunder, nor does it stand in lieu of normal permitting procedures in accordance with Florida Statutes and District rules.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me in the District's Planning Department at extension 4412.

Sincerely,

Mehrshad Nourani

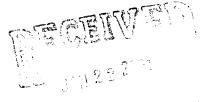
Planner II

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Terry Johnson

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Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Chairman Mayor Pat Whitesel Vice-Chairman Terrye Bradley Secretary/Treasurer Councilman Jerry King Executive Director Manny L. Pumariega

FEB 2.6 2001

February 16, 2001

Ms. Cherie L. Trainor, Coordinator Florida State Clearinghouse Florida Department of Community Affairs 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Subject:

IC&R #022-01, Maintenance Dredging of the St. Petersburg Harbor Navigation Project, SAI

#FL200012200789C, Pinellas County

Dear Ms. Trainor:

This letter constitutes acknowledgment and preliminary assessment of an application for the aforementioned project submitted under the provisions of Florida's Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (IC&R) process.

While we **do** find the proposal to be regionally significant, initial in-house review does not indicate the necessity for action by the Council. All member local governments will be notified of the application for any comments concerning local significance. The applicant will be contacted if any local concerns are identified.

In accordance with staff findings, and subject to concurrence of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) Clearinghouse Review Committee and TBRPC's full policy board, this project is considered to have met the requirement of Florida's IC&R process and no further review will be required by our agency. This letter constitutes compliance with IC&R only and does not preclude the applicant from complying with *other* applicable review/permit requirements or regulations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Angela Hurley, Research Planner

Intergovernmental Coordination & Review

AH/bj

01/23/2001 11:48

# FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE RPC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND RESPONSE SHEET

PAGE 87 (Pracicy already Completed)

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SAY#: FL200012200789C COMMENTS DUE TO CLEARINGHOUS	DATE: 12/20/2000 \$E: 01/19/2001
AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:	OUNTY: Pinellas County
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE DIRECT	T FEDERAL ACTIVITY FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT OCS
	ist Corps of Engineers - Maintenance Dredging of the St. Petersburg Harbor Navigation Egmont Key - Public Notice Number - PN-SP-227 - Pinellas County, Florida
ROUTING:	RPC X Tampa Bay RPC
PLEASE CHECK ALL THE LOCAL	GOVERNMENTS BELOW FROM WHICH COMMENTS HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED; ALL COMMENTS REC RESPONSE PACKAGE. IF NO COM BOX AND RETURN TO CLEARINGS	EIVED SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RPC'S CLEARINGHOUSE MENTS WERE RECEIVED, PLEASE CHECK "NO COMMENT" OUSE.
COMMENTS	DUE TO RPC: 01/10/2001
_	Pinellas County
NO COMMENTS:	
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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGA CLEARINGHOUSE AT (904) 922-5438 (	RDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE OR SUNCOM 272-5438.